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. . . On the 10th of December the United States Senate ratified arbitration treaties with Peru and China.

. . . The Brooklyn Public Library (26 Brevoort Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.) has prepared a list of books found in the library on International Peace, with references also to articles in periodicals. The Librarian, Mr. Frank P. Hill, writes that single copies of this list, which seems to us a most valuable one, will be sent to any of our readers who may apply for it.

. . . At the meeting of the National Grange in Washington, D. C., in November last, the following resolution, reported by the Committee on Commercial Relations, was adopted: "That a special committee, of which Mortimer Whitehead (New Brunswick, N. J., R. F. D. 6) shall be chairman, shall be appointed with a view to co-operating with other peace associations in all worthy efforts to advance the cause of universal peace."

Marquis Katsura's Message to the People of the United States.

BY REV. J. H. DE FOREST, D.D., SENDAI, JAPAN.

[Our readers will all remember the remarkable articles which we published last spring by Dr. De Forest, in refutation of the miserable slanders and misrepresentations made in this country by certain newspapers, and especially by Congressman Hobson, against the Japanese government and people in respect of their attitude toward this country. Since his recent return to Japan, where he had already spent thirty-three years, Dr. De Forest has been granted an interview with the Prime Minister, Marquis Katsura, of which he sends to Secretary Trueblood the following account. The Marquis' statements fully corroborate all that Dr. De Forest had said and written about the friendly feeling of Japan toward our country, and ought to close for all time the few remaining mouths that still persist in reiterating the falsehoods and misrepresentations. — Ed.]

On the fourth of November, just after the week of unparalleled welcome to our fleet, and the day following the review and ball given in honor of the Emperor's birthday, the Premier, General Marquis Katsura, kindly granted me an informal interview of over half an hour. Beginning with a rapid survey of his early career, His Excellency went on with a delightful cordiality, difficult to express in appropriate English, to speak of the United States substantially as follows:

"I am sixty-two years old. Of course I was deeply impressed with Commodore Perry's visit. In early manhood I had a hand in the affairs of the Restoration. At the age of twenty-three I was sent to Europe via America, when it took twenty-four days to cross the Pacific, and about forty to reach London. When in Europe it sometimes took nearly six months to get a reply from Japan. The earth, however, is just the same size it always was, but modern inventions have made it possible to go around it in a very few weeks, and the nations of the whole world are now close together, so that the great

problem is that of peace. The Pacific, that used to separate us as an impassable barrier, has now become but a little millpond. And the great nations on its shores are America, Japan, and China, who are responsible for peace in this part of the world.

"In talking of peace I am well aware that my signboard is bad;* for I am a soldier. I've been in the thick of fights and have killed a number of men. I have witnessed the horrors of war, and it makes me wretched — this bitter, cruel, mad war between human beings. From the bottom of my heart I became a man of peace, longing for nothing so much, and working for nothing so hard, as for peace. You know our history, and you know how in feudal times, when circumstances forced men to kill one another, our victorious warriors were often so heart-stricken with the blood they had shed that they shaved their heads, became Buddhist priests and entered monasteries, never again to draw the sword. And often the victors gave posthumous honors to the brave dead against whom they had fought.† It runs in us to hate war, just as your great generals Grant and Sherman did. In spite of our signboard, we long for nothing so much as for peace.

"Now that your nation and ours have been at peace for over half a century, you having been our teacher and sympathetic friend during all this time, we want above all things to deepen and make perpetual the peace between us. I have never had a doubt of the sincere friendship of the United States. Of course, there are worthless, unprincipled fellows in every country, but I'm speaking of the vast majority of your people.

"Here also in our land both government and people are absolutely one in their friendship for the United States and belief in your friendship for us. We of the Far East are responsible for peace in this part of the world, and I will guarantee that my government and people, in the years to come as in the past, will not only keep this great historic peace, but will do all that is possible to deepen and enrich this friendship of half a century. Our glad welcome to your fleet and to the Commissioners of Commerce from the Pacific Coast is but the natural expression on the part of our government and people that no misunderstandings shall weaken the glorious friendship between our two nations. You may make this known as widely as you like — that the government and people of Japan are one in their friendship for the government and people of your republic. We have adopted and put into successful practice all those precious liberties for which your people stand, and we desire to strengthen this traditional friendship beyond the possibility of its ever being broken."

The United States-Japanese Covenant.

On December first the agreement between the United States and Japan which had for some months been the subject of correspondence between Secretary Root and Ambassador Takahira was made public. The declaration — for it is a declaration rather than an agreement — sets

*Referring to his uniform as a General.

† Recently the Japanese have erected two monuments to the memory of their vanquished foes, one in Formosa, at the close of the war with China, the other, as all the world knows, to the Russians who fell at Port Arthur. Has any other nation ever done a similar thing?

forth the policy of the two governments in regard to the Pacific and the Far East. It is as follows:

ARTICLES OF THE COVENANT.

"1. It is the wish of the two governments to encourage the free and peaceful development of their commerce on the Pacific ocean.

"2. The policy of both governments, uninfluenced by any aggressive tendencies, is directed to the maintenance of the existing *status quo* in the region above mentioned, and to the defense of the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China.

"3. They are accordingly firmly resolved reciprocally to respect the territorial possessions belonging to each other in said region.

"4. They are also determined to preserve the common interests of all powers in China by supporting by all pacific means at their disposal the independence and integrity of China and the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry of all nations in that empire.

"5. Should any event occur threatening the *status quo* as above described, or the principle of equal opportunity as above defined, it remains for the two governments to communicate with each other in order to arrive at an understanding as to what measures they may consider it useful to take."

The final letters exchanged between Ambassador Takahira and Secretary Root were as follows:

AMBASSADOR TAKAHIRA'S NOTE.

"Sir: The exchange of views between us, which has taken place at the several interviews which I have recently had the honor of holding with you, has shown that Japan and the United States, holding important outlying insular possessions in the region of the Pacific ocean, the governments of the two countries are animated by a common aim, policy and intention in that region.

"Believing that a frank avowal of that aim, policy and intention would not only tend to strengthen the relations of friendship and good neighborhood which have immemorably existed between Japan and the United States, but would materially contribute to the preservation of the general peace, the imperial government have authorized me to present to you an outline of their understanding of that common aim, policy and intention.

[Here follow the five articles of the declaration given above.]

If the foregoing outline accords with the view of the government of the United States I shall be gratified to receive your confirmation.

"I take this opportunity to renew to your excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

"(Signed) K. TAKAHIRA.

"Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of State."

SECRETARY ROOT'S REPLY.

"Department of State,

"Washington, November 30, 1908.

"*Excellency*: I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your note of to-day setting forth the result of views between us in our recent interview defining the understanding of the two governments in regard to their policy in the region of the Pacific Ocean.

"It is a pleasure to inform you that this expression of mutual understanding is welcome to the government of

the United States as appropriate to the happy relations of the two countries and as occasion for a concise mutual affirmation of that accordant policy respecting the Far East which the two governments have so frequently declared in the past.

"I am happy to be able to confirm to your excellency, on behalf of the United States, the declaration of the two governments embodied in the following words: [Here follow the five articles of the covenant.]

"Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

"ELIHU ROOT.

"His Excellency, Baron Kogoro Takahira, Japanese Ambassador."

The substance of this declaration was submitted in advance to the European governments interested in Chinese affairs, and responses expressing cordial sympathy and support were received from all of them.

Progress Nevertheless.

Franco-German Arbitration.

BARON D'ESTOURNELLES DE CONSTANT IN THE PARIS
"MATIN" OF NOVEMBER 23

We must look at Germany as she is. Certain of her steps of progress are slow, in comparison with other countries, but rapid when she is compared with what she was ten years ago. Let me be more precise, and recall what I myself have seen.

The German government, at the first Peace Conference, was unwilling to have the subject of obligatory arbitration even discussed, and it was not without difficulty that one of her representatives, a man of noble spirit, Professor Zorn, obtained at Berlin authorization to take part in the reduction of the Convention of the 29th of July, 1899.

Five years later a second stage was reached. The King of England and Emperor William entered into an agreement at Kiel for the signing, between the two countries, of the first German Arbitration Convention, that of the 12th of July, 1904.

In 1907 came the third stage. The second Hague Conference met. Germany consented to discuss the question of obligatory arbitration. During weeks Baron Marshall gave himself to a veritable tournament. His resistance, it is true, was invincible. He triumphed, but by how many votes? "I can count them on the fingers of one hand," exclaimed the first delegate of the United States in a vehement plea. Five opposed, and four abstaining from voting, against all the rest of the civilized powers! Two hundred million, against one billion two hundred million inhabitants! And, furthermore, among the hostile votes there are some, that of Turkey, for example, which would to-day be on the other side.

The Yellow Book which our Minister of Foreign Affairs distributed to the Chambers last summer resumes these debates of four months at The Hague, but nobody in France reads them. They are read only abroad. There are found among them pictures, maps of the most striking interest, explanations of what has been done and of what remains to be done. [Here is inserted in M. d'Estournelles' article a circular map showing in a striking